

In claims 36 and 38, please amend the claims to depend upon claim 20, and delete the term "soluble human".

Please amend the following claims as indicated.

C¹ 6. (amended) A method for augmenting an immune response in a patient having a cancerous or neoplastic disease, comprising the [step] steps of administering flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate an increase in the number of the patient's dendritic cells and administering an antigen to the patient. E1

C² 20. (amended) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering Flt3-L in an amount sufficient to enhance the patient's immune response to such disease and administering an antigen to the patient. E2

Please add the following new claims:

C³ 44. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is a tumor cell. E4

45. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

46. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered prior to administering Flt3-L.

47. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered concurrently with Flt3-L.

48. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered after administering Flt3-L.

49. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the antigen is a tumor cell.

50. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

51. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the antigen is administered prior to administering Flt3-L.

- 03
could
52. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the antigen is administered concurrently with Flt3-L.
53. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the antigen is administered after administering Flt3-L.
54. (new) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering Flt3-L to the patient, isolating dendritic cells from the patient, exposing the dendritic cells to an antigen, and administering the dendritic cells to the patient.
55. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein the antigen is a tumor cell.
56. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.
- EY

REMARKS

After amendment, claims 6, 7, 20 and 22-56 are pending. Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 2 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue claims to the cancelled subject matter in any related application. Errors have been corrected in claims 27-30 and 36-39.

The amendment to claims 6 and 20 and new claims 46-48 and 51-53 are supported throughout the application and especially at, for example, page 3, lines 4-6. New claims 44, 45, 49 and 50 find support at page 7, line 31. Support for new claims 54-56 may also be found throughout the application and especially at page 3, lines 10-17 and Example 2 (page 13, line 30 to page 14, line 30). No new matter has been presented.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicants have also amended the specification to correct minor grammatical errors.

I. The Invention

The invention, as claimed, relates to the use of Flt3-L in immunotherapeutic methods of treating cancerous and/or neoplastic diseases. An aspect of the invention is the surprising discovery that Flt3-can stimulate the generation of dendritic cells *in vivo*. Dendritic cells are